

October 26, 2009

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

The Honorable Phil Andrews  
President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Subject: Consolidated Transportation Program Priorities (CTP)

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Andrews:

This letter provides the City of Rockville's Transportation priorities for funding by the Maryland Department of Transportation's Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The City of Rockville is aware that three out of the four following priorities were included in the County's latest (July 16, 2008) Joint Priority letter to the Montgomery County State Delegation.

The City of Rockville is reiterating its strong support for the following three priorities and is recommending one new priority to be considered when Montgomery County updates its Joint Priority letter. Mr. Leggett indicated in his response to Mayor Hoffmann on December 19, 2008 that given the financial state of Transportation Trust Fund, he did not anticipate the County's letter being updated until sometime in late 2009 at the earliest.

1. An interchange at I-270 and West Gude Drive.

Montgomery County's latest joint priorities letter includes this as priority number eleven in the Development and Evaluation program. By providing additional access to I-270, this project would relieve congestion at the MD 28 interchange, as well as on MD 28 between the Rockville Town Center to the east and Hurley Avenue to the west. This project will also allow Gude Drive to act as a bypass of the Rockville Town Center. The potential Gaithersburg West Plan project will be better served by such interchange.

2. A grade-separated intersection at MD 355 and Gude Drive.

Montgomery County's latest joint priorities letter currently ranks this as priority number three in the Development and Evaluation program. This project would be a companion to the I-270 Gude Drive interchange to provide an effective bypass of the Rockville Town Center for across-City traffic. In conjunction with these two projects, the MD 28 designation should be transferred from West Montgomery Avenue/Jefferson Street to West and East Gude Drive.

3. Corridor Cities Transitway

Montgomery County's 2008 joint priority letter lists the Corridor Cities Transitway as a project of regional significance that should be funded. The City supports the Light Rail Transit option. However, if this option does not qualify for federal transit funding due to adequate cost-effectiveness, then City would support the Bus Rapid Transit option.

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This project has become even more significant as Montgomery County considers the Gaithersburg West Master Plan. The CCT will help relieve congestion generated by thousands of new jobs and housing units planned in the area, which will lower pressure on Rockville intersections near or adjacent to the Gaithersburg West planning area.

New Request: Initiate a Study to Build a Pedestrian Bridge At MD 355 and the Twinbrook Metro Station.

In Mr. Leggett's response to our 2008 CTP letter, he noted that a study to increase pedestrian safety at MD 355 and the Twinbrook Metro Station was not included in the County's current priority list and that the City should be more specific and refine the scope of the project. Rockville has refined the scope and is requesting the following project be considered for inclusion in the County's priority list.

A study to explore the feasibility of constructing a covered pedestrian bridge similar to the one built over MD 355 at the Rockville Metro station would greatly enhance pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Bouic Avenue and Halpine Road. It would also encourage more commuters to take the Metro, and would foster increased pedestrian transport to shopping and other amenities in the area. This stretch of MD 355 is dangerous and unfriendly to pedestrians. This project will safely allow pedestrians to cross MD 355 and access the Metro and other nearby destinations – such as Congressional Plaza – without having to entertain the dangerous proposition of coming into contact with motorists crossing MD 355.

Your continued support of Rockville's ongoing transportation priorities as well as consideration of our new request to be included in the County's CTP priority list will be greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to advocate these essential projects. Please contact me if you need any clarification about these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Hoffmann  
Mayor

cc: Rockville City Council  
Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council Vice President  
Art Holmes Jr., Director of Montgomery County Transportation  
Scott Ullery, Rockville City Manager  
Craig Simoneau, Rockville Public Works Director  
Emad Elshafei, Chief of Traffic and Transportation